



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

Courageous Action. Selfless Spirit.™
Acción valiente. Espíritu altruista.™

Partners in Ministry

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Monday, July 19, 2021, 12 - 4:15 pm ET
Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 12 - 4:15 pm ET
Virtual Event

2021 Partners in Ministry Leadership Academy

Leadership is a central tenet of all Mercy ministries. The Partners in Ministry Leadership Academy is an opportunity to collectively witness to its importance in furthering Catherine McAuley's mission.

WHO ATTENDS? Those newly appointed to a leadership position in the school (faculty/staff/administration/board); those relatively new to a Mercy school; those who seek renewal or would like to explore a greater exercise of leadership; those who wish to know more about the charism, core values and tradition of Mercy that they might share more fully in the mission of Mercy.

Each participant shares in the learning and dialogue. Individually and communally, there is renewed faithfulness to the mission of Mercy. Participants return to their ministries with an increased capacity to embrace and enhance the Mercy charism in their school communities. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their individual gifts, to dialogue with others and to return to their ministry committed to exercising leadership for mission.

Schools are welcome to invite up to five participants (administrators, teachers, and staff) to attend.

WHERE? Partners in Ministry 2021 is a virtual event held via Zoom.

WHEN? Monday, July 19, and Tuesday, July 20, from 12 noon to 4:15 pm ET

QUESTIONS: Contact Kimberly Baxter: kbaxter@sistersofmercy.org or 610-331-2255.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[Please complete registration by June 15](#)

[PARTNERS IN MINISTRY](#)
[WEBSITE](#)



Program Schedule

Monday, July 19

- 12:00-12:30 pm Opening Prayer and Introductions
- 12:45-1:45 pm ***Mindfulness Presentation and Exercises***
Presenter: Kate Brennan
Mindfulness shifts how we relate with our experience, encouraging us to bring a curious, broad-minded attitude to each moment and situation. This openness encourages creative perspective, problem solving, resiliency, and positive engagement. Rooted in the principals of mindfulness, and inspired by Linklater voice work and restorative yoga, this workshop will include breath work and peaceful movements combined with creative writing to cultivate deeper self-awareness and willingness to be present and connected to the community.
- 2:15-3:30 pm ***Leadership in the Service of Mission: The Personal and Communal Call***
Presenters: Cheryl Kreger and Margaret Little Wilson
Cheryl and Margaret will share about their personal journey to and with Mercy education and the importance of the laity in continuing the mission of Catherine McAuley.
- 3:30-4:00 pm Break-out Rooms for Sharing on Personal and Communal Call to Mercy
- 4:00-4:15 pm Closing Prayer

Tuesday, July 20

- 12:00-12:15 pm Opening Prayer
- 12:15-1:00 pm ***“What Then Must We Do?” (Luke 3:10) Blessings and Burdens of Leadership Today: Responding to the Calls of Our Time***
Presenter: Sister Patty Beairsto, RSM
In Luke 3, when told by John the Baptist to prepare the way, the crowds ask, “What then must we do?” We have been asking that question ever since as in every era we wonder and worry how best to prepare the way of Jesus. As another era in Mercy education unfolds, what must we do as Catholic Mercy educators who carry the burden and blessing of the call to leadership in the time that is ours?
- 1:15-1:30 pm Break-out Rooms for Small Group Discussion
- 2:00-3:00 pm ***Walking in the Footsteps of Catherine: Virtual Tour of Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland***
Presenter: Elizabeth MacNeal
This virtual tour will cover the history of the founding of the Sisters of Mercy, the House of Mercy and the development of the Mercy Charism.
- 3:15-4:00 pm ***We Are Mercy Education***
Presenters: Staff of Mercy Education
Mercy Education staff will provide an overview of their work and share ways for participants to connect with the Mercy Education office, including education cohorts and upcoming events.
- 4:00-4:15 pm Closing Prayer

Meet Our Presenters



Sister Patty Beairsto, RSM, a Sister of Mercy for over 40 years, is a staff member at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women in Rochester, New York. During her 37 years at Our Lady of Mercy, she has served as a theology teacher and as theology department chair. Currently, she is the campus minister and part-time theology teacher as well as a member of the school's Crisis Team and Leadership Group. Sister Patty earned her undergraduate degree in history and political science and her graduate degree in theology and pastoral ministry. Sister Patty believes that leadership at every level is rooted in relationship and she is compassionate about ensuring the continuation of the Mercy charism, spirituality, and our call to act justly.



Kate Brennan is a Certified Yoga Teacher, Certified Thai Bodyworker, Designated Linklater Teacher, MELT Hand & Foot Instructor and creator of five musicals. Her book of poetry *elevated thoughts: 100 shadormas from 9,000ft.* was published with Literati Press and her musical *ALiEN8* (co-created with David Lee White) will be published with YouthPLAYS this year. She created and hosts the podcasts *Fair Play* and *The Brennan Book Blog Podcast* and runs *The Brennan Book Blog* on page-turning titles. She is a member of VASTA, The Dramatists Guild and AEA and holds an MFA from University of Virginia. She is an associate professor and Artistic Director of [Ignition Arts](#). Her work, Brennan Check-In, fuses Linklater voicework, yoga, mindfulness and creative exercises to connect people more deeply to themselves and others in order to live more healthy, creative and present lives. Steeped in Mercy since age 5, Kate is a graduate of Waldron Mercy Academy and Merion Mercy Academy and began her voice teaching career at both schools. www.katebrennan.org



Cheryl Kreger, Ed.D., has been President of Mercy High School Farmington Hills for 11 years. Her prior educational experiences include: Public School Superintendent; Associate Superintendent of Instruction, Curriculum and Strategic Planning; Director of Special Services (Bilingual, Special Education, Title I); Principal and Assistant Principal; teacher; Adjunct Faculty member at Wayne State University and University of Michigan Dearborn. Cheryl earned a Doctorate in Administration and Supervision from Wayne State University, her Masters Degree and Undergraduate degrees in Special Education from Eastern Michigan University. She holds certifications in Administration from the State of Michigan. She has been married for 52 years, has three children who are married and five grandchildren. Her interests are: family, travel, golf, bridge, waterskiing, spending time at the lake and reading. She is a Mercy Associate.



Elizabeth MacNeal is the Head of Heritage and Spirituality for Mercy International Association in Dublin, Ireland. In her role, she leads pilgrimages, coordinates programs, and works to engage the Mercy community in the life and legacy of Catherine McAuley. Her degree is in graphic design, and she spent many years working in communications and marketing including serving as Director of Marketing at Mercy Volunteer Corps. Elizabeth recently took her covenant as a Mercy Associate and is a proud alumna of Merion Mercy Academy in Pennsylvania. She is passionate about cultural inclusivity and community service and has led multiple service immersion trips including to Honduras and Ecuador as well as visiting Mercy ministries throughout the world.



Margaret A. M. Little Wilson, J.P., LUTCF, has served as the Administrator of Alpha Institute, Kingston, Jamaica since 2014. Her career experiences include 27 years at a major lighting and electrical distributorship in Jamaica and 11 years as a life insurance advisor at one of the leading life insurance entities in Jamaica, a position in which she repeatedly qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table. A product of Mercy education herself, Margaret considers her current role at Alpha her dream job. She is also a Justice of the Peace; the Board Chair for Alpha Infant School; a member of the Pastoral Church Council, Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church; and Immediate Past President of the Alpha Academy Alumnae Association, among other volunteer leadership roles. Margaret enjoys gardening.



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